

Booksin Green Beet

Booksin Elementary School, San Jose, CA

March 2011 Edition 2

Principal Debbie Baccino

Digital copy is available on the School Web Site

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Councilman Oliverio

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Go Green Students Interview San Jose City Councilman Pierluigi Oliverio

By Jenny C, Ryan G. and Ashley J.

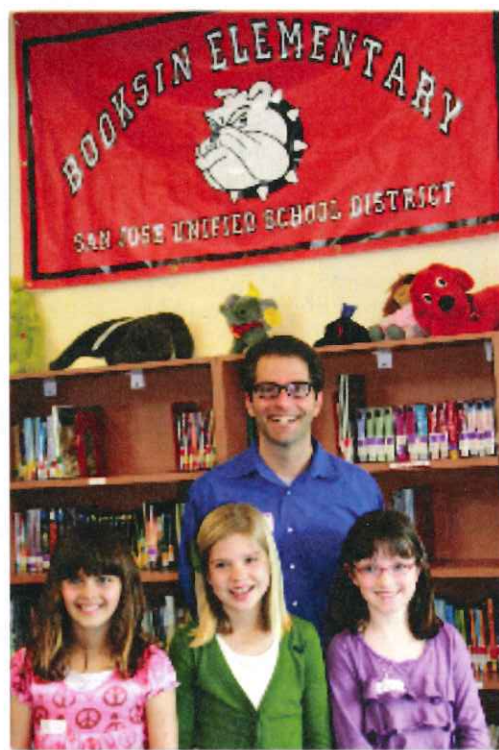
Jenny C.: "What is the San Jose doing to clean up our beaches, rivers, lakes, creeks and streams?"

Councilman Oliverio: Well, your city has a [Green Vision](#) adopted by our mayor, Mayor Reed and the City Council. We have a lot of goals and one of those is keeping areas clean like our stream so therefore the waters stay clean and are not polluted.

Ryan G.: What is your opinion on battery operated cars?

Councilman Oliverio: Well, that is certainly something you are going to have much more opportunity to enjoy. Silicon Valley clearly is one of the leading areas for battery innovation and electric cars between Tesla and other companies. We also have a company called [Coulomb](#), which make charging stations for electric cars. It would help us reduce our ability to always need oil.

"The City of San Jose, Calif., will be the first to test electric-car charging stations from start-up Coulomb Technologies. The two-year contract makes San Jose the first U.S. city to offer electric-car charging within an existing infrastructure," said San Jose Mayor Chuck Reed.



L-R 5th graders Jenny C. Ryan G. and 3rd grader Ashley J. with Booksin alumnus and San

**SAVE THE
DATE**

Booksin Volunteer's
Green Tea
April 21

Earth Day
Garden Dedication &
Sale
April 22

5th Annual Bay Area
Schools
Environmental
Conference
April 30

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Go Green Students Interview Councilman Pierluigi Oliverio

Ashley J.: "What are your plans for alternative energy for San Jose schools?"

Well, San Jose Unified has done a really great job in putting solar in a lot of their schools. We have one of the largest solar companies here in San Jose called [Sun Power](#) and they employ a lot of our residents. The City has been very excited about the various opportunities for solar. So if you have a solar idea, we want to hear about it and possibly implement it right away. The City of San Jose has done the same.

Jenny C.: "Do you have any solar panels on your house or in your neighborhood? If not, do you plan on getting any?"

Councilman Oliverio: I've actually thought about it, but I have an older roof and I'm thinking about putting on solar in 3 to 4 years from now. But as the cost gets cheaper, we'll see more and more houses have solar.

"You ladies are doing great. This is fun. This is stimulating. Good interview!" Pierluigi comments as he smiles at the three reporters.



Ryan G.: Will San Jose schools ever have lunch waste pickup to compost in the next 3 to 5 years?

Councilman Oliverio: A pilot program for school lunch waste for organic processing took place two years ago with the Union School District which yielded successful results. The City of San Jose encourages schools to compost right now. The school district

must be in agreement with their hauler to implement the compost program district-wide and not just individual schools.

If your school district is interested in implementing a composting program, you may contact Reena Brilliot, an environmental service specialist, with the City's Environmental Services Department at (408) 975-2533 or via email at Reena.Brilliot@sanjoseca.gov.



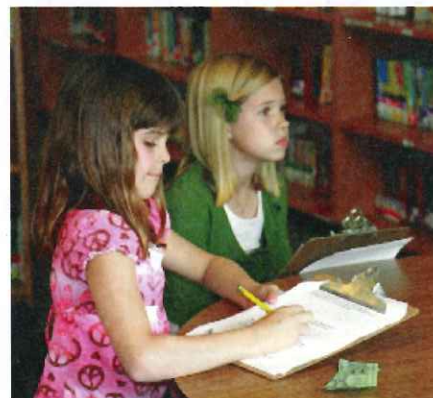
Ashley J.: "What do you do at home to help reduce waste and do you remember recycling when you were a student here at Booksin?"

Councilman Oliverio: When I was a student here, it was a long time ago, and we didn't know all the things about the environment that we know now. I remember it was starting to get more important to recycle.

Today, I try to live by the [No Impact Man](#) idea which is the film documentary I showed at City Hall. This idea describes the importance of reducing your [carbon footprint](#) as individuals. I try to basically have little to no garbage and recycle any and all materials, food products, etc. What I have also done at City Hall is shown documentary films on the environment. For example, I will be showing ["Bag It."](#) This film discusses plastic bags and their consequences on the environment. So, I figure if I show these films, then people will have

a common understanding about the environment and hopefully make some changes. This film is showing on April 4th at City Hall.

Councilman Oliverio: "What do you three students do at home to Go Green?"



Jenny C.: "We use reusable bags. We walk to school everyday rain or shine. We buy CSA vegetables and we have a garden."

Ryan G.: "Well, we buy biodegradable products."

Ashely J.: We use reusable bags that you can reuse at any store.

Councilman Oliverio: That's very good. And actually your city of San Jose will no longer have single use bags that will be effective January 2012.

Ashley J.: For Family Fun Night, we repurposed T-shirts and gave them away as prize bags.

Councilman Oliverio: That's very creative and it's repurposed. We are giving away a free bag at the movie too, that can be reused many times and you are all invited to come. □